



BRITISH COLUMBIA

POSTAL HISTORY

RESEARCH GROUP

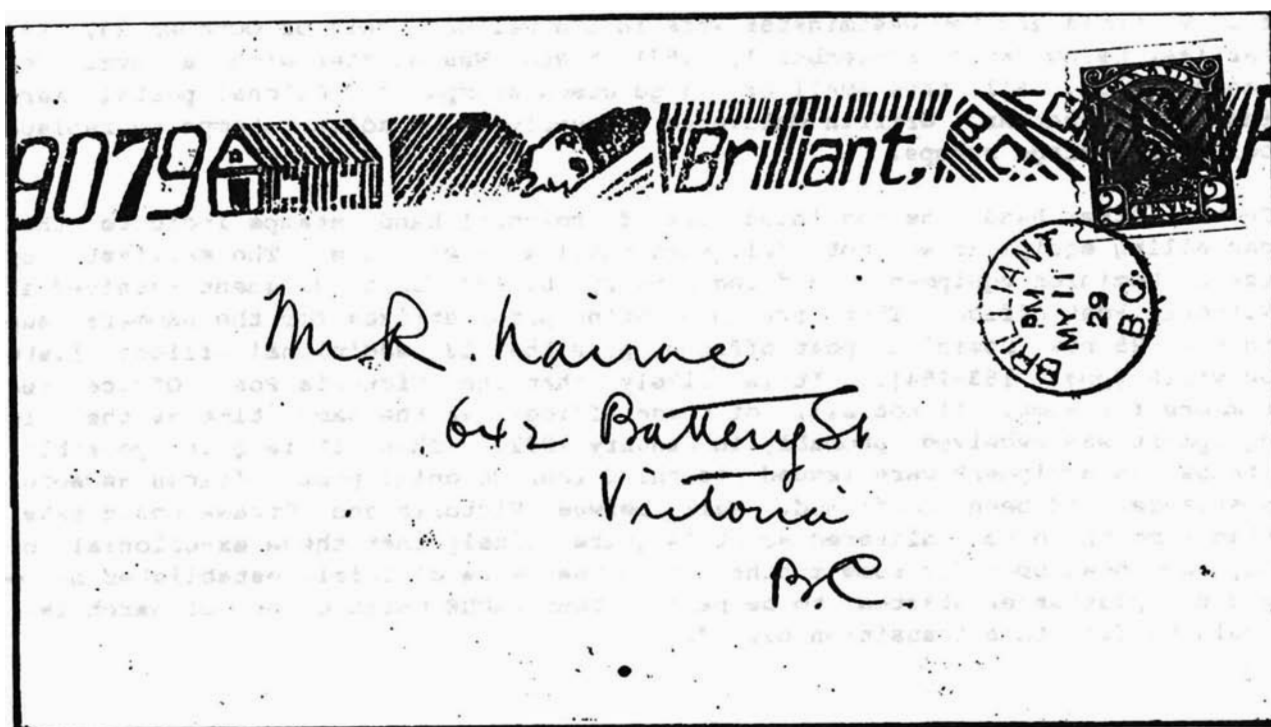
Volume 4 - Number 3

WHOLE NUMBER 15

SEPTEMBER 1995

BRILLIANT - P.O. No. 9079

The Brilliant, B.C. roller showing Peter (The Lordly) Verigin was recently illustrated in Maple Leaves. This produced a question from Jack Wallace as to the scarcity of these covers and are they philatelic? The canceller was carved by Postmaster Peter Alex Katasonoff, on a rubber roller of slightly over two inches in diameter and shows the Post Office Number 9079, the Post Office, Peter Verigin and the office name "Brilliant, B.C. Canada". About a dozen covers are reported between April 26, 1929 and December 24, 1932. The majority are addressed to the Victoria stamp dealer Roger Nairne or other philatelic names and all appear to be philatelic. (Reports of covers would be appreciated.)



Peter Katasonoff served as Postmaster at Brilliant from July 1925 until sometime between March and October 1931 when F. H. Kanigan took over. Mr. Katasonoff appears to have carved the roller shortly after Peter Verigin was killed, by a premature explosion, as he and a few of his followers were attempting to blow up the tracks of the Kettle Valley Railway in October 1924.



CACHE CREEK - March 19, 1872

Tracy Cooper writes that he has a cover from CACHE CREEK dated March 19, 1872 which is over three months earlier than the official establishment date of July 1, 1872 as listed in Deaville. Here is my reply.



There is considerable confusion regarding the transfer of Colonial Post Offices to Dominion status. Deaville had access to far more information than any other researcher since, but much significant information was missing. Prior to Confederation most postmasters were not paid and by 1871 it appears only the postmaster at Victoria drew a salary although some postmasters, such as the one in New Westminster, were paid for other government duties. According to Gerry Wellburn the postal system had ground to a halt by 1871 with the express companies carrying much of the mail.

Gilbert Griffin, Post Office Inspector at London, Ontario, visited British Columbia in July 1871 at which time he accepted on behalf of the Dominion government the 25 Colonial offices that were still in operation as of July 20, 1871 when the Crown Colony officially became part of Canada. At the same time he supervised the destruction of all existing stocks of Colonial postage stamps (see Wellburn page 159). The latest reported cover using Colonial stamps was in the Wellburn collection [p. 151] and is dated at Victoria, August 12, 1871. A number of cover from Victoria and New Westminster were in the Wellburn sale of October 23, 1993, the earliest being dated September 1, 1871 at New Westminster with an oval Colonial cancellation. All have small or large queen stamps and Colonial postal markings, indicating that Mr. Griffin delivered a supply of Canadian stamps to replace the colonial postage stamps.

On the other hand the continued use of colonial hand stamps indicate that the cancelling equipment was not delivered until a later date. The earliest reported use of Dominion equipment is dated January 8, 1872 on a document received at the Victoria Post Office. There are no existing proof strikes for the hammers supplied to the 25 new Dominion post offices plus the 12 additional offices listed by Deaville [pps. 153-154]. It is likely that the Victoria Post Office received hammers for some, if not all, of these offices at the same time as the Victoria equipment was received, probably in January 1872. Thus, it is quite possible that stamps and equipment were issued to the former Colonial post offices as soon as a postmaster had been confirmed. Mail between Victoria and Ottawa could take more than a month to be delivered so it is quite likely that these ex-Colonial offices may have been open for some months before they were officially established by Ottawa and the postmaster started to be paid. Your CACHE CREEK cover of March 19, 1872 would be from this transition period.

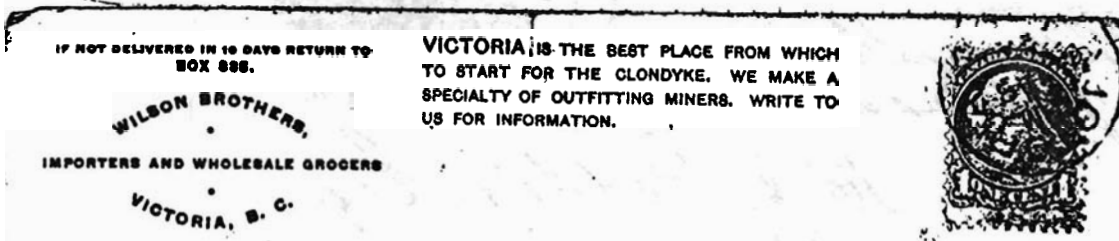
The British Columbia Postal History News Letter is published quarterly for the Pacific Northwest Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society. The annual membership fee is \$5.00 in Canadian or US funds.
Bill Topping, Editor, 7430 Angus Drive, Vancouver, BC, V6P 5K2, Canada.

CAPEX'96 - FEATURING THE KLONDIKE

CAPEX'96 will be held at the Toronto Convention Centre from June 8 to June 16, 1996. Plans are to feature Northern Canada and The Northern Canada Study Group has been asked to compile a display featuring Yukon Postal History as part of the Court of Honour. The study group is planning a group exhibit of at least 20 frames to mark the 100th anniversary of the discovery of gold in the Yukon. Members with suitable material are asked to contact Gray Scrimgeour thru the Editor.

"VICTORIA - THE BEST PLACE TO START FOR THE CLONDIKE"
Wilson Brother, Victoria

Face - VICTORIA / PM / JA 9 / 98 / B.C.
Back - nil

**YUKON GENERAL AGENCY**

Accommodation, Outfitting,
Forwarding, Insurance, Luggage Storage.

P. O. BOX 436
VANCOUVER, B. C.



J.A. Jones

Richard Shi

Vancouver B.C.

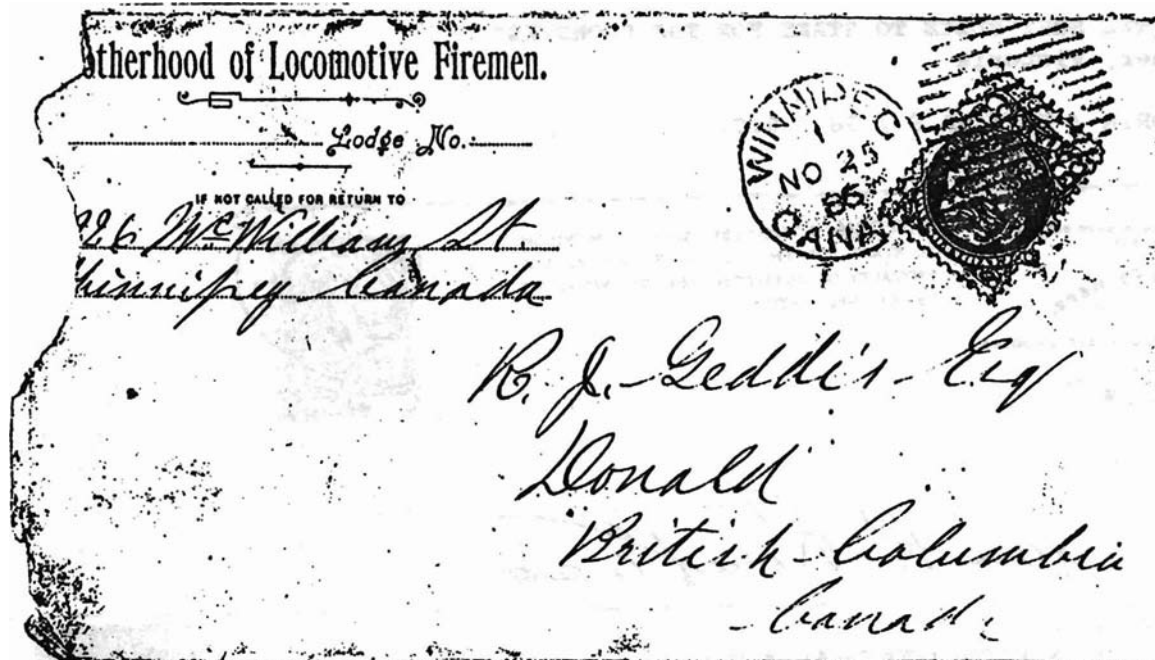
Face - VANCOUVER / 2 / AP 3 / 98 / B. C.
1 / AP 4 / 98 (carrier delivery mark)

YUKON GENERAL AGENCY - VANCOUVER, B.C.
Accommodation, Outfitting, Forwarding, Insurance, Luggage Storage.

ROBERT JAMES GEDDIS - LOCOMOTIVE FIREMAN

Based on information supplied by Alex Price.

Robert James Geddis came to British Columbia as a Canadian Pacific Railway fireman on April 19, 1886. He was active in the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and as a result received a large amount of mail from various parts of the country. Although Geddis did not save the envelopes addressed to him much of his mail has survived. Alex Price, as a result of his interest in all things CPR, has developed a fascinating collection of Geddis material and is looking for reports on other items addressed to R.J. Geddis.



Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen envelope from Winnipeg Nov. 25, 1886



R.J. Geddis - 1883 age 23, in Ontario prior to coming West

Geddis was born in Ontario, June 16, 1860 and joined the Western Division of the CPR on October 23, 1883 as a fireman and moved the Pacific Division April 3, 1886. He became a "locomotive turner" or hostler in 1887 and was promoted to Engineer January 29, 1890. In the same year, on July 14, he married to Miss Melissa Parker at New Westminster, at which time he was working at Rogers Pass.

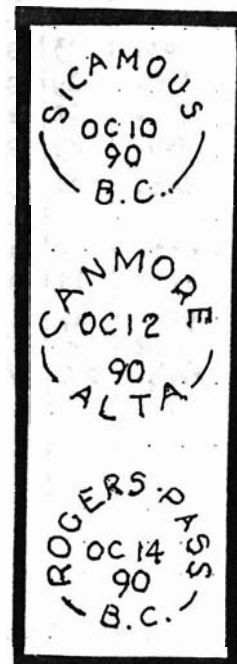
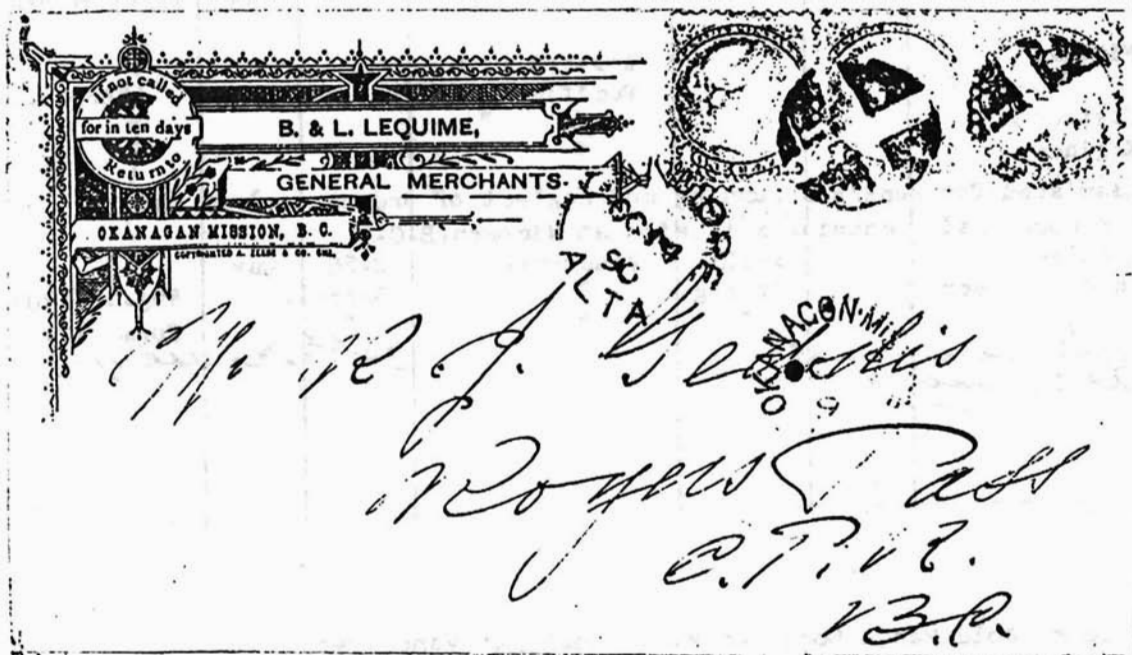
On December 27, 1898 he was "Dismissed for reckless running and neglect of orders to look out for work train, causing collision at Nicomen, B.C." He was rehired by the CPR as a hostler at Vancouver on October 5, 1901 and became a yard engineer in 1904. He retired on December 1, 1927 on a pension of \$38.65 a month. He died February 31, 1931.

ROBERT JAMES GEDDIS

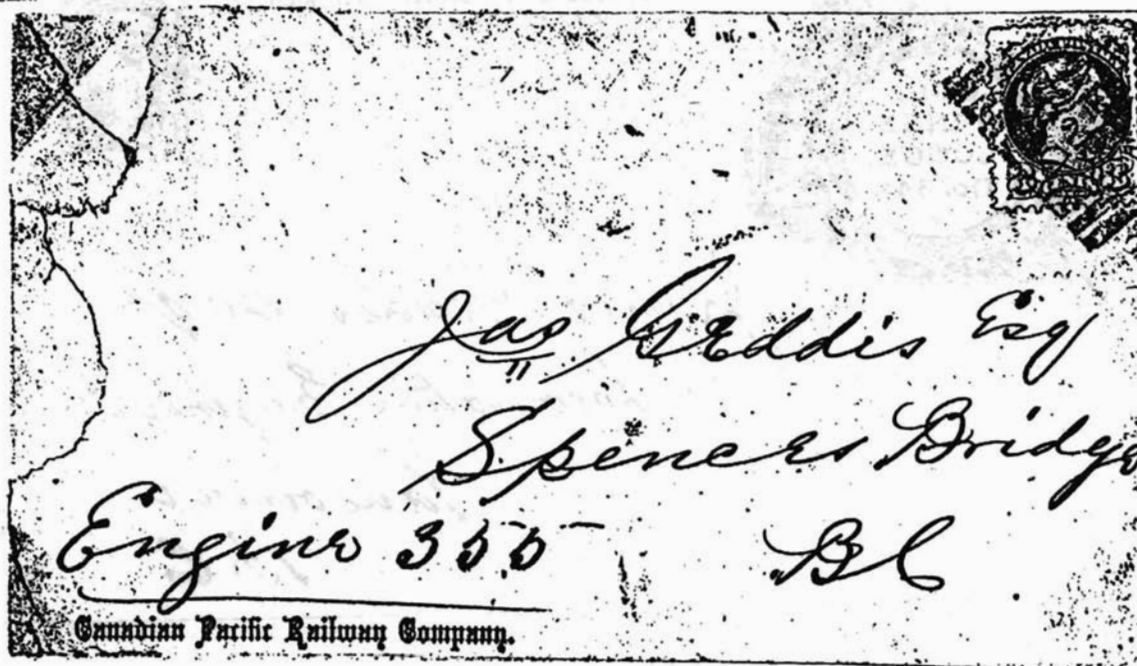
Covers addressed to Geddis are known for Donald (1886 - 1887), Rogers Pass 1888 - 1890), Spences Bridge (1895) and Vancouver (1895 - 1901). Covers are also known addressed to him while he was on business for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen at Atlanta, Georgia, and Komoka, Ontario.

1890 cover from Okanagan Mission to Geddis at Rogers Pass.

Unusual routing through Sicamouse, Canmore and back to Rogers Pass.



DONALD, / SP 16 / 95 / B.C. - CPR regional headquarters at Donald to Geddis on Engine 355 operating out of Spences Bridge.

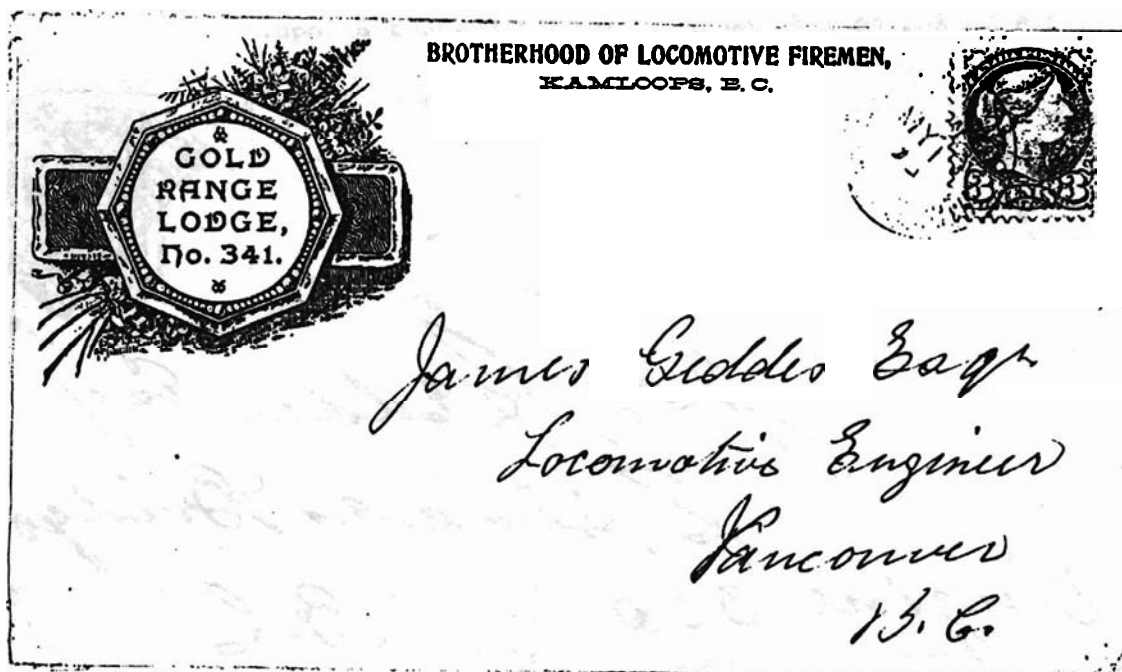


ROBERT JAMES GEDDIS

Copy - Canadian Pacific Railway staff records for Geddis, Robert James

NAME			GEDDIS ROBERT JAMES			DATE OF BIRTH		RETIREMENT	
NATIONALITY			RECORD NO.			June 16, 1860		1925	
DATE EFFECTIVE			22699			1862		1927	
MONTH	DAY	YEAR	OCCUPATION	TEMP'Y	DEPT.	LOCATION	RATE	PER	DATE APPROVED
Oct.	23	84	Fireman			Western Divn.			Corres.
Apr.	19	86	"			Pacific Divn.			
Feb.	12	87	Hostler ✓			" "			
Jan.	29	90	Engineer			" "			
Dec.	27	98	Dismissed for reckless running and neglect of orders to look out for work train, causing collision at Nicomen, B.C.						
Oct.	5	01	Hostler		Mechl.	Vancouver	2.50	Day	Aug. 10/1907. Form 012. ape 4/28
Jun.	11	04	Yard Engineer		Op't'g.	"	Sched.		
Apr.	17	14	"		"	"	"		
Dec	27	27	<i>Resigned</i>				38 ⁶⁵		
Feb	27	31	<i>Deceased</i>						

Cover from Kamloops Gold Range Lodge to R.J. Geddis at Vancouver
Cancelled - C. P. R. RY. M.C. / W / MY 12 / 95 / BRITISH COLUMBIA
Geddis was living at 915 Richards Street near the CPR shops.



"BRIT.COL." CANCELLATIONS - Revised to 1995 07 01 See - June 1992

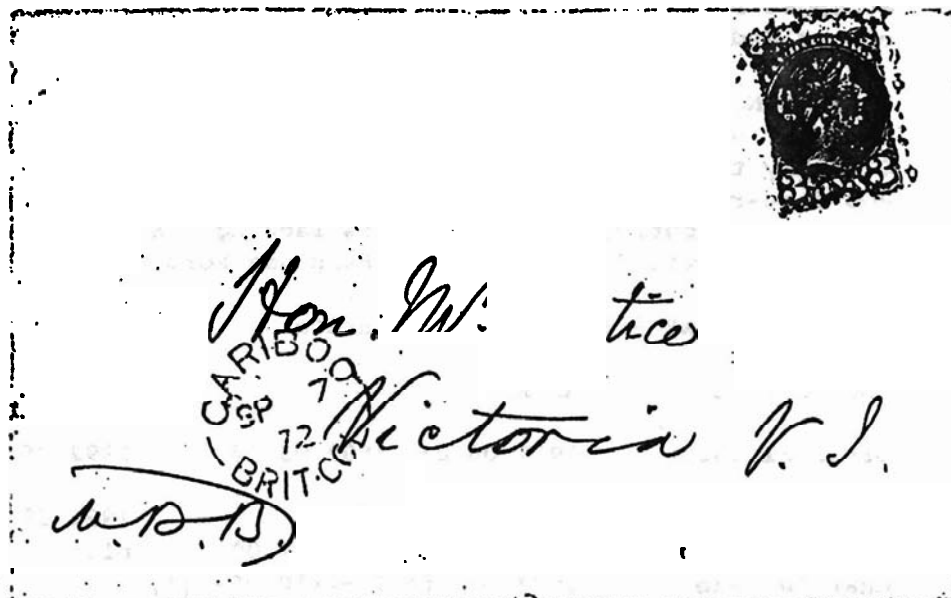
The response to the request for Early and Late dates for BRIT.COL. cancellations has been excellent. The revised list below includes a new listing "OMINICA", a new hammer for "NEW WESTMINSTER" and a complete revision for "VICTORIA" hammers. The list also contains 34 new dates which is not bad for a list of 24 Post Offices.

CARIBOO BRIT. COL.

CARIBOO is one of the few post offices that opened in 1871 for which there is no record. It is unlisted in Deaville nor is there any record of the opening or closing in the Postal Records in Ottawa.

----->
Face - "M.B.B."

Matthew Bailey Begbie

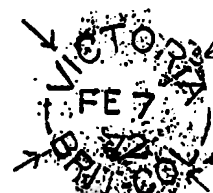


POST OFFICE	TYPE	DIA	PROOF	DATE	EARLY	LATE	NOTE
CARIBOO	A	22		1872	05 31	1872 09 07	
CHEMUNUS	A	21	1883 10 06	1884	12 10	1884 12 11	
CLINTON	A	22		1874	06 20	1902 01 14	
CLINTON	B	29		1879	03 27	1880 11 11	
CLOVER VALLEY	A	22	1883 11 09	1888	11 13	1909 02 27	
COMOX	A	22	1883 11 29	1885	08 06	1900 06 09	
DOG CREEK	A	22	1882 08 05	1890	12 12	1901 02 16	
DRYNOC	A	21	1882 08 16	1883	03 26		
EMORY	A	22.5	1881 12 02	1883	06 03	1883 09 24	
ESQUIMALT	A	21		1873	09 15	1890 01 22	
HALLS PRAIRIE	A	21	1883 11 09	1891	11 23	1917 06 11	
KAMLOOPS	A	21	1883 08 09	1883	11 04	1893 07 20	
LANGLEY PRAIRIE	A	21	1883 11 09	1888	11 16	1891 03 04	
NEW WESTMINSTER	A	21		1872	04 13	1879 09 12	
NEW WESTMINSTER	B	30		1879	08 29		ALL 1879 08 29
NEW WESTMINSTER	B	23	1883 06 02	1883	06 20	1888 03 23	SEE PROOFS
NEW WESTMINSTER	B	23	1890 08 09	1890	11 22	1892 09 22	2 HAMMERS SAME
NORTH ARM	A	23.5	1882 03 06	1892	03 21	1892 09 02	
OMINICA	A	21.5		1873	08 18		
PAVILION	A	22.5	1878 05 06	1897	03 09	1899 05 06	DIA. 22.5MM
PAVILION	A	24	1882 03 25	1890	12 04	1904 03 08	DIA. 24MM
PORT HOODY	A	21	1882 12 09	1884	12 06	1900 03 27	ONLY ONE HAMMER
QUESNELLE	A	21.5		1873	04 27	1891 11 01	
QUESNELLE	A	23		1892	10 01		
UPPER SUMAS	A	20.5	1883 11 02	1893	07 10	1904 04 25	
VICTORIA	A	22		1872	01 08	1876 10 24	"I" TO BACK "L"
VICTORIA	A	22		1872	02 07	1875 10 18	"I" TO "OL"
VICTORIA	A	22		1872	01 09	1874 07 09	"A" CONCAVE
VICTORIA	A	22		1872	06 13	1875 12 24	"I" TO "O"
VICTORIA (T)	B	21	1877 07 27	1877	10 24	1880 11 24	"T" ONLY
VICTORIA (SF)	A	21	1872 07 28	1877	02 06	1881 01 19	"SF" ONLY
VICTORIA / CANADA	B	23	1882 09 07	1882	10 04	1895 06 16	BLANK, SF, T, AM, S
VICTORIA N.O.O.	B	25		1877	10 18	1882 10 13	
YALE	A	21.5		1872	04 15	1881 08 14	
YALE	B	29		1879	01 26	1880 08 29	
YALE	B	23.5		1883	03 06	1911 02 18	

VICTORIA HAMMERS

Type A2-1 - 1872 01 08

Type A2-2 - 1872 02 07



Type A2-3 - 1872 01 09

Type A2-4 - 1872 07 12



Type A2-5 - T only

Type A2-6 - SF only

**RAILWAY POST OFFICES**

C. P. RY. N.C.	11 (B)	23	1886 10 02	1886	09 07	1896 09 24	4 HAMMERS PROOFED
NEL. & MID- R.P.O.	177 (B)	23.5	1927 06 29	1931	10 10	1957 07 27	2 HAMMERS PROOFED
NEL. & MID. R.P.O.	177 (B)	22.5	1908 03 23	1908	08 13	1926 03 13	

ALASKA HIGHWAY - RESPONSE FORM

In the May issue of "The Northerner", Robert L. Hunter of Stuart, Florida, has an excellent article entitled "Fifty Years of the Alaska Highway". Those who attended PIPEX'95 in Victoria have already had a first hand view of some of the covers and postal markings used to illustrate the article.

In "The Northerner" Bob lists the early and late dates for the "ALASKA - CANADA / HIGHWAY" and the "RENDEZVOUS'92" cancels. Thanks to the assistance of Kevin O'Reilly the dates for the Yukon Post Offices are fairly complete. Unfortunately Bob appears to have had little assistance with the British Columbia dates and as a result considerable information is lacking. A revised list is printed below and forms the basis for this months Response Form. Your assistance is requested.

ALASKA HIGHWAY - Special cancellation.

Post Office	ALCAN	Remdezvous
Official usage	1991 06 01 1992 05 14	1992 05 15 1992 11 30
Atlin	nil	1992 09 15 1992 11 09
Baldonnel	1991 08 20 1992 07 08	nil*
Charlie Lake	1991 06 06* 1992 10 05# (1)	1992 07 09 1992 08 15
Chetwynd	1992 07 15 1992 10 05#	1992 04 04 (2)
	1991 06 06* 1992 08 12	1992 07 10* 1992 09 29
Dawson Creek (K)	1991 05 05 (1991 07 17)	(1992 10 29) 1992 11 06
	Day of Issue	1992 05 15 only
Farmington	1991 09 19 1992 08 12	1992 08 11 & undated
Fort Nelson (K)	1991 06 05 (1991 10 08)	(1992 04 10) 1992 08 11
Fort St. John (K)	1991 06 05 (1991 07 10)	(1992 09 30) 1992 11 02
Hudson's Hope	1991 09 11 1992 08 12	1992 04 15# 1992 08 12
Muncho Lake	1991 09 21 1992 08 13	1992 05 13 1992 07 13
Pink Mountain	1991 06 01* 1992 11 13	1992 06 12 1992 07 10 (3)
Pouce Coupe	1991 06 19 1992 07 07	1992 05 01* 1992 11 02
Prophet River	1991 11 30* 1992 08 15 (4)	nil
Taylor	1991 06 05* 1992 08 12	1992 07 06 1992 12 04
Toad River	1991 09 20 1992 08 92	1992 05 15 1992 08 ??
Tumbler Ridge	1991 06 05* 1992 08 25	1992 06 15* 1992 11 30*
Wonowon	1991 09 23 1992 07 08	1992 05 15 1992 12 15

Footnotes -

- * Date information supplied by postmaster
- # Unlikely date - possible date error on hammer
- (K) Klussendorf only - Reported use 1991 06 01 to 1992 11 30
- (1) Charlie Lake - hammer 1 - months in numerals. 2 - alphabetical month
- (2) Chetwynd - hammer 2 issued 1992 07 10
- (3) Pink Mountain postmaster claims "Rendezvous" cancel not issued (92 11 13)
- (4) Prophet River offically re-opened 1992 02 27

ALASKA HIGHWAY - 50TH ANNIVERSARY CANCELS

Robert L. Hunter of Stuart, Florida has developed an interesting collection of commemorative postal markings used along the Alaska (ALCAN) Highway in 1991 and 1992. Four different markings were used in British Columbia.

1. Klussendorf slogan cancellation - "ALASKA - CANADA / HIGHWAY"
Official use - June 5, 1991 to November 30 1992
2. Rubber cancel - "ALASKA - CANADA / HIGHWAY"
Official use - June 1, 1991 to May 14, 1992
3. Metal hammer - "RENDEZVOUS'92"
Official use - May 15, 1992 to November 30, 1992
4. Metal hammer - "DAY OF ISSUE - DAWSON CREEK, BC."
Official use - May 15, 1992 only



FARMINGTON, B.C. V0C 1N0



Name
Address
.....

Forms should be sent to -
Bill Topping
7430 Angus Drive
Vancouver, B.C.
V6P 5K2 CANADA

ALASKA HIGHWAY - Special cancellation.

British Columbia

Post Office	ALCAN	Remdezvous
Official period	1991 06 01 1992 05 14	1992 05 15 1992 11 30
Atlin	nil	1992 09 15 1992 11 09
Baldonnel	1991 08 20 1992 07 08	nil*
Charlie Lake	1991 06 06* 1992 10 05# (1) 1992 07 15 1992 10 05#	1992 07 09 1992 08 15
Chetwynd	1991 06 06* 1992 08 12	1992 04 04 (2) 1992 07 10* 1992 09 29
Dawson Creek (K)	1991 05 05 (1991 07 17) Day of Issue	(1992 10 29) 1992 11 06 1992 05 15 only
Farmington	1991 09 19 1992 08 12	1992 08 11 & undated
Fort Nelson (K)	1991 06 05 (1991 10 08)	(1992 04 10) 1992 08 11
Fort St. John (K)	1991 06 05 (1991 07 10)	(1992 09 30) 1992 11 02
Hudson's Hope	1991 09 11 1992 08 12	1992 04 15# 1992 08 12
Muncho Lake	1991 09 21 1992 08 13	1992 05 13 1992 07 13
Pink Mountain	1991 06 01* 1992 11 13	1992 06 12 1992 07 10 (3)
Pouce Coupe	1991 06 19 1992 07 07	1992 05 01* 1992 11 02
Prophet River	1991 11 30* 1992 08 15 (4)	nil
Taylor	1991 06 05* 1992 08 12	1992 07 06 1992 12 04
Toad River	1991 09 20 1992 08 92	1992 05 15 1992 08 ??
Tumbler Ridge	1991 06 05* 1992 08 25	1992 06 15* 1992 11 30*
Wonowon	1991 09 23 1992 07 08	1992 05 15 1992 12 15

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- (2) Chetwynd - hammer 2 issued 1992 07 10
- (3) Pink Mountain postmaster claims "Rendezvous" cancel not issued (92 11 13)
- (4) Prophet River officially re-opened 1992 02 27